



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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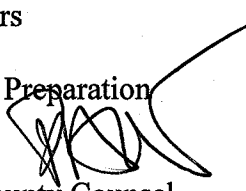
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June 20, 2012

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TO: SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: PATRICK A. WU 
Senior Assistant County Counsel

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Carla Sameth v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. CV 10-6565

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan which are to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

PAW:rfm

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Carla Sameth v. County of Los Angeles, et al., United States District Court Case No. CV 10-6565, in the amount of \$199,000 and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department's budget.

This lawsuit concerns allegations of false arrest and excessive force by Sheriff's Deputies.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	<u>Carla Sameth v. County of Los Angeles</u>
CASE NUMBER	CV 10-6565
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	September 2, 2010
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 199,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	John Burton, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Laura Inlow, Esq. Collinson Law
NATURE OF CASE	<p>Plaintiff, Carla Sameth alleges that her federal civil rights were violated when she was falsely arrested and subjected to excessive force by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$199,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 47,125
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 21,789

Case Name: Carla Rachel Sameth v. County of Los Angeles



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	Monday, December 28, 2009; approximately 4:20 p.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p><u>Carla Rachel Sameth v. County of Los Angeles</u> Summary Corrective Action Plan No. 2012-005</p> <p>On Monday, December 28, 2009, at approximately 4:20 p.m., three Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies contacted the plaintiff to determine if she was a lawfully ticketed passenger on the Metro Gold Line public transportation system. When the plaintiff was unable to provide a valid ticket, the deputies directed her to exit the train at the Highland Park Passenger Station in order to issue her a citation for fare evasion.</p>

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

After exiting the train, the plaintiff became loud and argumentative. One of the deputies (a female) initiated a cursory search of the plaintiff's person. The plaintiff resisted and attempted to separate herself from the deputy. She leaned forward and struck her nose on a metal flange protruding from a support pole.

The plaintiff was examined at the scene by Los Angeles Fire Department paramedics and subsequently transported to Los Angeles County - University of Southern California Medical Center where she was treated for a fractured nose.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department had relevant policies and procedures/protocols in effect at the time of this incident.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's training curriculum addresses the circumstances which occurred in this incident.


This incident was thoroughly investigated by representatives from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Transit Services Bureau North. Their investigation concluded that the actions taken by the three sheriff's deputies were reasonable, justified, and in compliance with Department policy. Consequently, no corrective action measures are recommended nor contemplated.

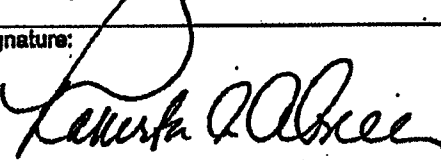
County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

3. State if the corrective actions are applicable to only your department or other County departments:
(If unsure, please contact the Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch for assistance).


- ☐ Potentially has Countywide Implications.
- ☐ Potentially has an implication to other departments (i.e., all human services, all safety departments, or one or more other departments).
- ☒ Does not appear to have Countywide or other department(s) implications.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
Shaun J. Mathers, Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 4/18/2012

Name: (Department Head)	
Roberta A. Abner, Chief Leadership and Training Division	
Signature: 	Date: 4/19/12

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch

Name: LEO COSTANTINO	
Signature: 	Date: 5/1/12

Risk Mgt. Inspector General/CAP-SCAP-RECAP/Summary Corrective Action Plan Form 2-01-10 (Final).docx